FIRING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE

U.S. Cavalry Pistol

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U.S. Cavalry Pistol

1860 Army Revolver

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 1860 ARMY REVOLVER

The 1860 Army Colt carried by the horse soldiers was every inch a man's gun. It shot a heavy enough ball or bullet to stop a man or a horse. The .44 Colt was the answer to the U.S. Army's need for a powerful weapon. Many a Colt .44 saved the life of a Cavalry soldier in battles or skirmishes with Indians. Cavalrymen from General George Custer right on down the line carried the 1860 Army Revolver with pride and considered it as essential a part of their gear as their faithful steeds.

President Lincoln and Samuel Colt both presented especially fine examples of the sidearm to American soldiers as well as heads of state. Presentation 1860 Army Revolvers went to the Kings of Sweden and Denmark, as well as to other European and Near Eastern royalty.

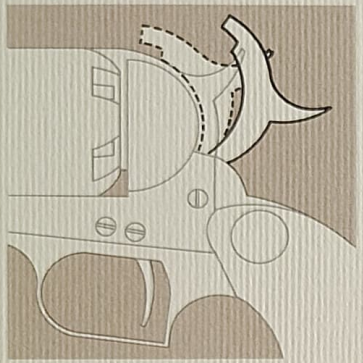
The revolver was a sure-fire, effective, and a durably built tool which could take a lot of punishment. The worth of the .44 was proven by its use by the U.S. Army until after 1873, well into the age of the cartridge pistol.

FIRING YOUR U.S. CAVALRY PISTOL

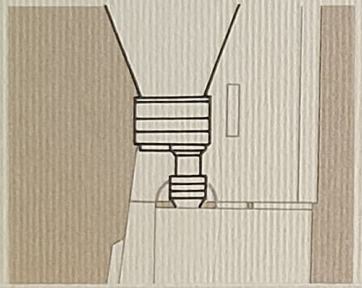
IMPORTANT! Don't overload the chambers of the cylinder. For target shooting, 25 grains (four-fifths of a dram if you have an old measure) is just right if you are shooting a round ball. A heavier charge will give greater penetration and less accuracy. Use 25 grains for maximum accuracy and never more than 35 grains for maximum penetration with round ball, and 20 grains to a maximum of 25 grains with conical projectiles. The diameter of the bullet should be .451. In order to shoot your 1860 Colt percussion .44, you will need FFFG gunpowder (not smokeless) and a box of No. 11 caps.

TO LOAD YOUR 1860 ARMY REVOLVER

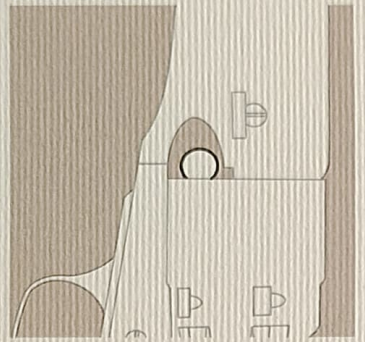
[1] First, cock the hammer halfway by pulling it back to half cock. This will allow the cylinder to revolve freely.



[2] Pour a pre-measured charge of powder into one of the chambers.

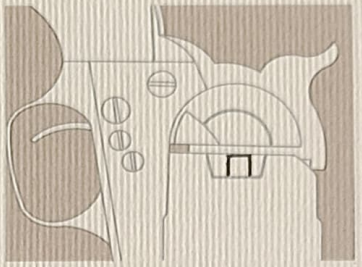


[3] Seat the ball with the sprue up, on the mouth of the chamber and rotate the cylinder until it is under the loading lever.



[4] Ram the charge home with the loading lever piston. (The lever drops down when you retract the spring-loaded catch of the ramrod. The catch is located under the muzzle of the barrel.) Repeat the process until five of the six chambers have been loaded.

[5] Push a percussion cap on each of the five nipples. The hammer can then be lowered carefully on the unprimed nipple and the revolver can be carried safely without fear of discharge. Be sure not to snap the hammer or let the hammer hit the



uncovered nipple with force. This will smash the nipple and close the hole which conveys the flash to the powder in the chamber. If this happens, the deformed nipple must be removed with a special nipple wrench and a new nipple must be screwed in.

[6] When you are ready to shoot, pull the hammer all the way back to full cock, aim the revolver, and pull the trigger. You will notice that the

cylinder revolves each time that you cock the hammer.
Because it is a time-consuming chore to load the percussion revolver, many of the troopers carried a spare cylinder already loaded. They could insert this loaded cylinder by removing the slide bar which retains the barrel and pulling the barrel forward to free the cylinder. The slide bar is located on the left side of the frame ahead of the cylinder and

SPECIFICATIONS:

Overall Length: 13⅝ inches

Barrel Length: 8 inches

Caliber: .44

Weight: 2 pounds, 10 ounces

Engraving: 24-karat gold

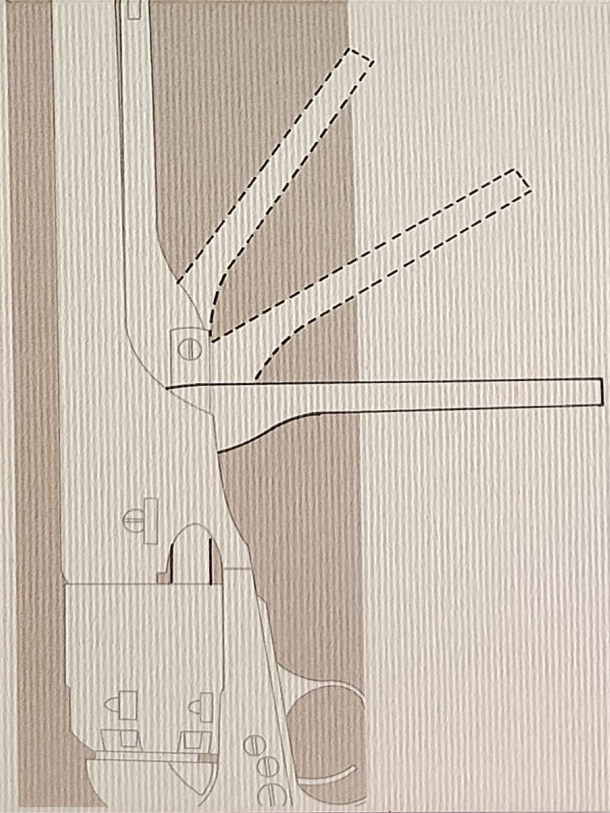
Grip: Imported Asian stag

Frame, Barrel and Metal Cylinder: First quality blued steel

Trigger Guard: 24-karat gold-plated brass

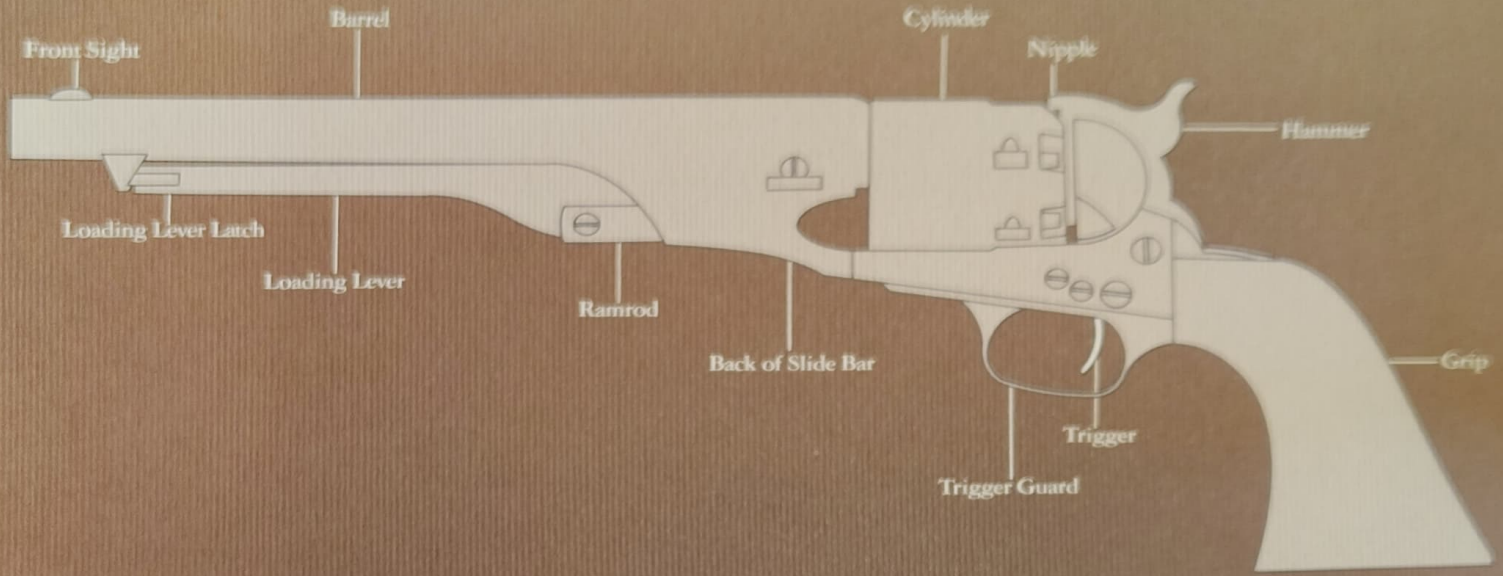
Backstrap: Blued Steel

Percussion Caps: Original Bley Bros. Style #11 (black powder only)



the frame ahead of the cylinder and is held in place with a screw.

Don't forget—wear safety glasses and hearing protection whenever you shoot any firearm!


Front Sight
Barrel
Cylinder
Nipple
Hammer
Loading Lever Latch
Loading Lever
Ramrod
Back of Slide Bar
Grip
Trigger
Trigger Guard

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